

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT  
(ADA) ADVISORY COUNCIL**

September 19, 2003  
MEETING MINUTES

**MEMBERS:** Ed Eames, Toni Eames, Marilyn Jost, Vidal Medina, Jan Kafton, Mary Beth Randall, Jose Luis Barraza, Jan Carmichael, Shirley Harper, Shirley Garrett, Carol Casey, Annette Carter, Alex Morro, Williford Burton and John Ramirez

**CITY STAFF:** Jon Elam, Stella DuBois-Pantages, Robyn Kale, and Robert Andersen of the Public Works Department, Joe Espinosa, Esther Rivas, Andrew Rodriguez of Caltrans and Sara Pomare with the Fresno Housing Authority

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Self introductions were made.

**Meeting Minutes**

The August 1, 2003 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Member Issues Not on Agenda**

- " Annette Carter: Reported much disrepair at bus stops and stated she would call it in to the Hot Line. She specified the area around West & Shaw. Robert Andersen addressed the subject and asked Annette to contact him next week to discuss the intersections and plan improvements.
- " Marilyn Jost: Needed to know when the City of Fresno was incorporated to include in the ADA Brochure. Jon Elam indicated he would get the information to her. She also asked that the accommodations notice/verbiage be added to the bottom of the agenda when placed on the website. Stella indicated she would see that it gets done. Marilyn also advised the ADA Advisory Council that a TTY line needed to be set up for the Hot Line.

**ADA Hotline/Website**

Stella made apologies for Jane in that Jane was out ill. Stella attempted to get a written report in order that she'd be able to report to the Advisory Council in Jane's absence, but was unable to secure said report.

Vidal Medina asked if he could follow-up on a previous Hot Line reported issue to Jon Elam. He reported the broken sidewalk on the southwest corner of Cedar and Nees. Jane Rivas placed a follow-up call to him stating it was a code violation. Jon Elam indicated he would look into it and asked Vidal to send him an e-mail reminder.

As to publicity on the Hot Line Ed indicated that the Advisory Council has tried to do what they can and it's up to the media to pick it up. If anyone is open to going to the news media, etc. and talk about the Hot Line, please feel free to do so.

**CalTrans Update**

Joe Espinosa, Caltrans representative sitting in for Frank Gonzales who is on special assignment in Sacramento, reported on curb ramps on the over crossings of Olive/99, Fresno/99, and Ventura/99. Design plans are 100% complete, but have not been distributed to the entire organization. Due to the budget crises, funding is not available and will probably not be available until July 1, 2004.

Ed stated this seemed to be an obvious ADA violation and it might be worthwhile to go into Federal Court under Federal regulations and address this as a safety and access issue and place it high on the priority list. Discussion ensued. Ed asked Stella to secure the name of the contact person at Caltrans who he might approach on this issue.

Jon Elam suggested that perhaps the option could be explored with Caltrans where Caltrans enters into an agreement with the City and the City advances these funds so that Caltrans can get this work done and then later reimburse the City.

### **Curb Cut Issues**

Jon Elam reported 47 new curb cuts for last month and that the City has completed 23 so far in September.

Jon referenced some photos taken and the "island bump" in the center of the curb corner which distinguished the direction of the curb cut to define precisely the east/west/north/south alignments for the sidewalks. The attempt presently is to install them as a dome rather than a square. The concern was that someone could fall off a bike and hit themselves on the sharper corners. The reason for the dome is so that vehicular traffic will not cut too close into the openness of the curb. It will assist in segregating the cars into the street. The photos were passed around for review and comment.

Jon Elam stated Robert Andersen would speak on the new specifications and the set City standards for curb work. Annette Carter had some concerns in this regard and indicated she was already drafting up another report. Considerable discussion ensued along with explanations of the dome's purpose. Questions were addressed. Ed stated that we needed to look at this as a work in progress.

### **MIG Update**

Robyn Kale reported that a discussion was held on September 2, 2003 between Melissa Erickson and Tim Gilbert of MIG. It was determined that Melissa would draw up an informal report which should be completed by October 2, 2003. This report would give an update on the implications of the evaluations which were completed by the various departments. It was suggested prioritization of buildings be by how accessible they are to public accommodation. Robyn also reported that training for the evaluator will be composed of a one day lecture.

Jon Elam asked Ed to at the minimum give an opening address to reinforce what we're doing and why we're doing it. Jon also mentioned the list of department liaisons was in the process of revision and suggested that having a joint meeting or reception sometime could be of great public relations and communication value.

### **Disability Awareness Day**

Jose Luis Barraza gave an animated updated progress report on the upcoming Disability Awareness Day program slated for October 15, 2003. He thanked all members who have assisted in bringing it together. Jose distributed/discussed a list of accomplishments from equipment secured, refreshments, confirmation of location sites for the event, letters, mailings, agency booths, banner, flyers, publicity, the sale of T-shirts and luncheon tickets, etc. Jose also went over a projected budget and fielded questions from the members.

Toni Eames thanked Jose and those responsible for doing such a good job and suggested "thank you" notes be sent out after the event.

Jose inquired if any of the City funds allocated for ADA use would be available for this activity and mentioned how Caltrans has their own committee and wondered if they could assist as well. Jose received a positive confirmation on both counts. Great job and well done.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Jon Elam reported a meeting was held and they discussed some of the issues of the MIG contract. Robyn Kale's report evolved from questions asked by the Executive Committee. Ed reminded everyone that the Executive Committee was created to keep things going because not everything can be covered at the ADA Advisory Council two hour sessions once a month.

### **Member Items**

" Marilyn Jost asked Sara Pomare of the Housing Authority to give the Advisory Council some insight into what the Housing Authority does. Sara did so and fielded questions from the members, such as number of units, size and how the level of rent is determined, rules and regulations concerning income level in order that one might be eligible for these units, etc. Discussion ensued.

Vidal took the opportunity to announce that CIL has undertaken something they've not done before and that is accessible housing with a universal design. They are working with a Corporation out of Sacramento called "Rural Assistance." HUD is also interested in helping subsidize some of the larger grants. In a nut shell the program allows a family of ten or greater to come together and build homes for themselves (sweat equity), in the case of a person with a disability, the work would be done by family and friends. A meeting will be held on September 24, 2003 at CIL.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m. The next meeting of the ADA Advisory Council is scheduled for October 17, 2003.